Bonded labourers

*320. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers rescued in the country during 2006 and 2007, so far. State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the Central assistance given for the rehabilitation of the rescued bonded labourers during 2006-07 and during 2007-08, so far, State-wise and year-wise and number of them who have been rehabilitated during the period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some bonded labourers rescued in Haryana sometime back again went missing; if so, whether they could be found out and the action taken against those who were responsible for their disappearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Statement showing the number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and Central assistance released to the State Governments during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 31.07.2007).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	State	Amount released as Central Assistance	No. of Bonded Labourers Rehabilitated	Remarks
200607	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 10.40	104	Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour
	West Bengal	Rs. 3.01	93	- do -
2007-08 (upto 31.7.07)	West Bengal	Rs. 8.80	88	-do-

(c) According to the reports received from the State Government of Haryana, no such case has occurred in Haryana during the last five years.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tea factories lying closed

2294. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tea factories are lying closed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make these tea factories functional?